

its programme might have been. A high school equivalent to the lower and middling classes of the old colleges of the country, would have materially helped the McGill University in its infancy; and it is a remarkable fact that the commencement of its present prosperous era coincides with the incorporation with it of the Montreal High School.

It was not before the year 1843, that statutes were framed for the government of the college; and in the same year a chair of divinity and two professorships in the faculty of arts were established.

The buildings which had been commenced in 1839, were then completed and although parts of them are still in an unfinished state, they were ready for the reception of students on the 7th of September.

The original plan of these buildings embraced a center building and two wings connected by corridors. Only the center building and one wing on the left side have as yet been erected. Since the erection of Burnside Hall, they have been occupied as residences by several of the officers of the college, and Mr. Fronteau, the professor of French receives in one of them a certain number of pupils as boarders. Young men from the country or from Upper Canada have the advantage under that arrangement of a very comfortable boarding house, together with that of learning the French language from one who is highly conversant with all its niceties and difficulties.

As may be seen by the accompanying engraving the College buildings are placed in a commanding position and are surrounded by a large space of ground, containing some fine trees and which has been much improved recently by planting and the formation of a central avenue. It is expected that the College authorities will ere long complete the original design of the buildings, and hold in them the classes of the faculty of arts as intended at the time of their erection. When completed the whole front of the edifice will be 350 feet, and elevated as it is on a terrace, and surrounded by ornamental grounds, it will have a very imposing effect. Even in its present state, the McGill College is one of the most remarkable objects in the scenery of the mountain of Montreal, and never fails to attract the attention of the tourist.

The huge wall in rear of the College is the terrace or embankment of the reservoir of the city water-works, deserving attention and which draws many visitors to that spot. The site of the College buildings as we have said was for many years at a very inconvenient distance from what was then the city of Montreal; but it must be admitted that the directors cannot be blamed for its selection, particularly if they then had in view the rapid development which the city is acquiring every day.

We were much amused a few days ago, in looking at the engravings in a book published the very year in which the foundations of the College buildings were laid. (1) Most of the edifices, which are seen in the plates, have disappeared and are replaced by others of much greater dimensions and of much better appearance. Tracts of land which were then

gardens and fields are now covered with elegant houses; in fact, are the handsomest wards of the city.

In these engravings the General Hospital, in Dorchester street, seems to stand in the middle of a field, and the McTavish house, which is near the McGill College buildings at the mountain, has the appearance of a castle built in a forest. Now, Sherbrooke street and the mountain itself to a great distance beyond the priest's farm, are covered with some of the most beautiful residences of the country, which are daily springing up in every direction. If we may judge of what will take place during the next twenty years by what we have seen since 1839, we can say without fear that the present site will then be a very central and eligible one. At all events it affords a most delightful view of this elegant and glittering city, which is perceptibly growing under our eyes, and a distant glimpse of the blue waters of the St. Lawrence with its many verdant islands.

To return to the early history of the College, we find that the first professors appointed in 1823 were: Principal and professor of Divinity, the Revd. G. J. Mountain, D. D. of the University of Cambridge; professor of moral philosophy and learned languages, the Revd. J. L. Mills, D. D., of Oxford; professor of history and civil law, the Revd. J. Strachan, D. D., from Aberdeen; professor of mathematics and natural philosophy, the Revd. J. G. Wilson, A. M. from Oxford; professor of medicine, Thomas Fargues, M. D., from Edinburgh. The first degree conferred by the College was that of M. D. on Mr. W. L. Logie, 24th May 1833.

In 1839 the only professors that were connected with the institution were those in the medical department; they were as follows: Dr. Holmes, professor of chemistry and pharmacy; Dr. Robertson, of the theory and practice of medicine; and Dr. Stephenson, of anatomy and physiology. There were besides two lecturers, Dr. George Campbell, on surgery and Dr. Archibald Hall, on materia medica.

From the opening of the buildings in 1843 to the year 1850, there does not seem to have been great progress made, if we judge of it by what is said in the written address presented by Judge Day, president of the board of governors, to His Excellency the Governor General, on the 7th of October 1856, on the inauguration of the new building of Burnside Hall. "The institution thus started was not successful, it received no general support and dragged on a languishing existence from year to year without apparent hope of improvement. Its utterly prostrate condition at length attracted attention and in 1850 the provincial government was moved by a number of public spirited gentlemen to aid in an endeavour to place it on a better footing."

In the year 1853 the High School of Montreal was incorporated with McGill College, and became a distinct department of the institution. The first building of Burnside Hall was erected the same year and opened to the pupils in March 1854. It contained the College department, the offices, library and museum of the University, and the High School. From that time, the whole of the operations of the institution were carried on in the city in a most central position, and the result was immediately felt by a large increase of students in every department.

(1) *Hochelaga depicta*, by N. Bosworth, Montreal, 1839.